

an inverter circuit configured in operative connection with the DC bus and with a lamp input line, configured to generate an asymmetric alternating current on the lamp input line, the inverter circuit being connected directly to the lamp input line;

wherein the asymmetric alternating current, generated directly on the lamp input line, is provided to a fluorescent lamp being in operative connection with the fluorescent lamp input line to eliminate visual striations otherwise occurring in the lamp.

[Please cancel claim 2 and substitute therefor.]

2. (Amended) The ballast circuit according to claim 1 wherein the inverter circuit includes:

a switching network including bipolar junction transistor switches wherein the bipolar junction transistors are configured to have unequal on times for producing an asymmetry in the alternating current.

Please cancel claim 4 and substitute therefor:

4. (Amended) The ballast circuit according to claim 1 wherein the inverter circuit includes:

a switching network including MOSFET transistor switches; and back-to-back, series connected zener diodes bridging the gate and source terminals of the MOSFETs, the zener diodes being configured with unequal voltage values from each other causing the MOSFETs to have unequal on times.

Please cancel claim 8 and substitute therefor:

8. (Amended) A method of supplying asymmetric alternating current to a gas discharge lamp from a ballast, the method comprising:

converting an AC voltage from an input power source to produce a DC voltage on a DC bus;

inverting said DC voltage to produce an asymmetric alternating current directly on a lamp input line; and

supplying a gas discharge lamp with the asymmetric alternating current in operative connection with said lamp input line to eliminate visual striations otherwise occurring in the lamp.

[Please cancel claim 9 and substitute therefor.]

9. (Amended) The method according to claim 8 wherein said inverting is performed by a switching network including bipolar junction transistor switches wherein the bipolar junction transistors are configured to have unequal on times for producing an asymmetry in the alternating current.

Please cancel claim 11 and substitute therefor:

11. (Amended) The method according to claim 8 wherein said inverting is performed by a switching network including MOSFET transistor switches; and

providing back-to-back, series connected zener diodes bridging the gate and source terminals of the MOSFETs, the zener diodes being configured with unequal voltage values from each other causing the MOSFETs to have unequal on times.

Please add the following new claim 17:

17. (New) A ballast circuit powered by an AC-to-DC converter in operative connection with an input power source, the AC-to-DC converter being configured to produce a DC voltage, the ballast circuit comprising:

a DC bus in operative connection with said AC-to-DC converter, configured to receive the DC voltage;

an inverter circuit configured in operative connection with the DC bus and with a lamp input line, configured to generate an asymmetric alternating current on the lamp input line, the inverter circuit being connected directly to the lamp input line;

the inverter circuit including one of bipolar junction transistor switches, wherein the bipolar transistor switches are configured to have unequal on times by having unequal h_{FE} values, and MOSFET transistor switches, wherein the MOSFETs are configured to have unequal on times by providing back-to-back, series connected zener diodes bridging the gate and source terminals of the MOSFETs and configured with unequal voltage values from each other;

wherein the asymmetric alternating current, generated directly on the lamp input line, is provided to a fluorescent lamp being in operative connection with the fluorescent lamp input line to eliminate visual striations otherwise occurring in the lamp.
